

ability of the district to accomplish its mission.

During his tenure as district commander, the district's workload expanded and its annual operating budget increased from less than \$100 million in Fiscal Year 2004 to over \$184 million in Fiscal Year 2007. Colonel Hill skillfully managed resources and reengineered district processes to efficiently accomplish the planning, engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of Pittsburgh district's 23 locks and dams, 16 multipurpose reservoirs, local flood protection projects and environmental infrastructure projects covering 26,000 square miles and portions of five States.

Colonel Hill knew that an important aspect of commanding the district was developing relationships with key leaders in the region. He took the time to meet with officials, visit projects, evaluate the issues, and work to understand the various perspectives of the experts in the region. He established and improved relations with local, State and Federal officials, culminating in changes to outdated lock and dam operating schedules, resulting in cost savings and efficiencies. Colonel Hill's partnerships resulted in the revitalization in projects affecting the critical waterways in the Lower Monongahela and Upper Ohio River. He championed efforts with the Upper Ohio River Study, Asset Management, Charleroi construction, the district's Strategic Business Initiative, SBI, and a number of other high priority projects. These efforts and accomplishments greatly improved the district's image and reputation among the public, stakeholders, congressional staff and the workforce.

Colonel Hill recognized the importance of working across and beyond the district's boundaries. He led by example, deploying to Louisiana to assist in the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort, serving as part of Task Force Hope. More than 25 percent of the Pittsburgh District team members also deployed to assist in the hurricane recovery effort.

Colonel Hill's exceptional service reflects great credit upon himself, the Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Army.

Colonel Hill's next duty assignment is Commander of the gulf region South District at Base Camp Adder, Iraq. The South District covers more than 65,000 square miles, manages more than 1,500 projects that are valued at over \$3.3 billion. Colonel Hill will oversee 107 U.S. military and civilian professionals, 263 contract security personnel and nearly 124 Iraq professionals who work side-by-side to provide the transitional support in order to create a viable and stable democracy in the country.

Pennsylvania has been honored to experience the leadership and passion that COL Stephen Hill provided to the Pittsburgh District. Along with my colleague, Senator SPECTER, I thank the colonel for his service to our coun-

try and wish him a safe tour of duty in Iraq and much success throughout his entire career.

I ask to have printed in the RECORD a biography of Colonel Hill.

The material follows:

Colonel Stephen L. Hill assumed command of the Pittsburgh District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on July 17, 2004. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. with a Bachelor of Science Degree and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Engineers in 1982. He holds a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Purdue University and a Masters Degree in Strategic Planning and Policy from the Army War College. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Armor Officer Advanced Course and the Engineer Officer Basic Course.

Since graduation from the Military Academy, Col. Hill has served in command and staff positions in Germany, Haiti, Japan, Kuwait, Egypt and the United States. Prior to his assignment in Pittsburgh, Col. Hill served as the Senior Engineer Trainer—Side-winder 07—at the Army's National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, Calif. training soldiers and leaders while assisting in the development of training doctrine for contemporary operations and emerging asymmetric threats. He commanded the 317th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division and led the battalion during deployments to Kuwait, Egypt and the NTC. Prior to battalion command, he served with Headquarters, U.S. Forces, Japan as a joint engineer staff officer responsible for bilateral negotiations with the Government of Japan and management of a \$1 billion facility improvement program. Before duties in Japan, Col. Hill served as an operations officer in the 82nd Airborne Division and staff engineer for the Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, N.C. He served as program and project manager for classified special mission unit projects throughout the country and deployed to Haiti with Task Force Black to assist the Ambassador and country team with initial efforts to restore security and democratic leadership.

Earlier in his career, Col. Hill commanded the 58th Combat Engineer Company, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and Delta Company, 54th Engineer Battalion with missions along the Fulda Gap. He served as project officer and assistant Resident Engineer for the Corps of Engineers' Seattle District at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Mont. He also managed several EPA superfund projects and assisted with the development of the environmental project and program management baseline plan for Seattle's engineering division.

Col. Hill's next duty assignment is Commander of the Gulf Region South District at Base Camp Adder, Iraq.

Col. Hill's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal (five oak leaf clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Army Superior Unit Award and other unit and service awards. He is a SAME fellow, Master Parachutist and wears the Air Assault Badge. He is qualified as a Joint Specialty Officer.

Col. Hill is married to his high school sweetheart, the former Susan Mills from Nichols, N.Y. They have a son, Ross, who recently completed his freshman year in Chemistry at Boston University.●

THE CENTENNIAL OF ELIDA, NEW MEXICO

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to mark the centennial of Elida, NM.

In July 1907, the town of Elida was officially incorporated, and for the last 100 years this small New Mexico town has remained a close-knit ranching community. Although much has changed in Elida during the last 100 years, many things have not. Elida is still the kind of town where neighbors take the time to help one another and come together for a Fourth of July barbeque every year. I believe that kind of community is something special and those individuals who call Elida home should be proud.

As the residents of Elida and the surrounding area gather this weekend to celebrate the history of their town, I would like to wish them well and I hope Elida has another wonderful 100 years.●

IN RECOGNITION OF ERIN RATH

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to my longtime communications director and friend Erin Rath, who for the past 9 years has had the unenviable task of turning a sow's ear to a silk purse, of explaining what I "really" meant and consoling reporters whose call I missed.

Erin comes from hearty New Hampshire political stock and was brought up in an environment where politics and community service was very much a part of her life. Her mother Chris is a leading educator in Concord, serving as superintendent of schools, and her father Tom is a bit of a legend in New Hampshire politics for offering sound advice to Presidential candidates who wander into the Granite State. But, anyone who knows Erin will tell you she has always cut her own path, willing to take any task and accomplishing it with a smile. Whether it was dealing with a not so media friendly member or an aggressive reporter, Erin has perfected the skills needed to pitch any story with style and grace. She understands how to craft a message and have it be understood, whether by a weekly paper in New Hampshire or the Wall Street Journal.

On those rare days that I didn't want to do press, Erin was always the one coming to me and promoting an interview or conference call and, even when temporarily rebuffed, would find a way to cheerfully get her mission accomplished. And, when she was left to translate the day's events to a press corps that was disinterested or confused, Erin would find a way to make the story intelligible and get it in print or across the airwaves.

Erin has also worn another very important hat in my office as the lead on appropriations issues. She excelled at organizing and managing my appropriations requests and making sure worthy New Hampshire projects were